(b) if so, what steps were taken to thwart and prevent mass-violation of the borders;

(c) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Government of Bangladesh against their plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Some Islamic groups in Bangladesh announced on December 12, 1992 a plan to take a Long March to Ayodhya.

(b) Government viewing the above development with due concern, took up the matter appropriately with the Government of Bangladesh and, in addition, it took all other necessary measures to guard against the violation of our borders.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir; a strong demarche was made to the Bangladesh High Commissioner in India on January 4, 1993, conveying our serious concern and strongly urging the Government of Bangladesh to stop the Long March. Further, our Spokesman stated on the same day that the proposed Long March was an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs. It was clearly the responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh to prevent any illegal border crossing by Bangladeshi nationals. He added that there was no question of permitting any violation of our territory and laws by foreign citizens. The Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka was asked to convey to the Government of Bangladesh that Government of India would take firm steps to prevent the border crossings. Consequently, the border crossing did not take place.

अयोध्या घटना पर बंगलादेश, पाकिस्तान और ईरान द्वारा दिए गए उत्तेजक बयान

192. **श्री गया सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बंगलादेश, पाकिस्तान और ईरान की सरकारें अयोध्या घटना के बाद से लगातार उत्तेजक बयान दे रही हैं, और

(ख) भारत सरकार सम्बन्धित सरकारों के साथ किस प्रकार इस मामले को उठा रही है और इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) बंगलादेश और पाकिस्तान की सरकारों ने अयोध्या घटना के बारे में कई आलोचनात्मक वक्तव्य दिए हैं। उनकी राष्ट्रीय असेम्बलियों में आलोचना करते हुए संकल्प पारित किए गए हैं। ईरान ने भी अपने आलोचनात्मक विचार व्यक्त किए हैं।

(ख) सरकार ने राजनयिक सूत्रों के माध्यम से बंगलादेश और पाकिस्तान की सरकारों के समक्ष अपना गहरा खेद व्यक्त किया है और उनके बयानों पर तीव्र निराशा व्यक्त की है जो कि हमारे आंतरिक मामलों में अस्वीकार्य हस्तक्षेप तो है ही, इसके साथ ही इसने सार्वजनिक भावनाओं को भड़काने का भी काम किया है। हमने अपने रूख से ईरान को भी अवगत करा दिया है।

Tenure of working for the Staff at regional Passport Office: Delhi

193. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether some tenure of working has been fixed for officers and staff of Regional Passport Office of Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof separately for each category of staff and officers;

(c) whether it is a fact that working of Passport office of Delhi is of routine nature which can be handled by any raw official with one to two weeks of practical working;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a large number of Regional Passport officers, ARPO's Office Superintendent, Stenographers, Senior Clerks have been working in Delhi Passport Office for the last 10 years despite norms of tenure of working at one place;

(e) whether Government propose to transfer such officials to give chance to other officials to get acquainted with working of Delhi Passport Office; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MNISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) to (f) No tenure of stay has been formally fixed for officials of Passport offices. Administrative guidelines regulating transfer of CPO employees, which will include tenure of officials in various grades, are being finalised.

It is a fact that a number of officials in the Regional Passport Office, Delhi have been in position for over 10 years. Their cases will be reviewed in the light of the transfer policy being finalised.

The work of the POs including RPO Delhi, involves different aspects some of which require specialised training and experience whereas others are of a routine nature and can be performed by new recruits.

Reference from M.Ps. received in Passport Office in Delhi

194. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some references from M.Ps. taking up grievances of general Public have been received in Regional Passport Office of Delhi during May to December, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of these references month-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that none of these references have either been replied or acknowledged;

(d) whether any instructions exist for disposal of these references in a time bound period;

(e) whether these instructions are based on instructions basically issued from Parliamentary Affairs Department;

(f) whether Government propose to call for information from all offices every month watching the disposal of these references; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Pak Border and other Disputes

195. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent past border disputes between India and Pakistan and infiltration of Pakistan nationals have been on the increase;

(b) whehter Government have taken up the issues with Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) Incidents of firing and infiltration along the Indo-Pak border continue to take place.

(b) and (c) Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan repeatedly emphasising the need to keep the situation along the border under control.